

Mr. Speaker, many of the people who work at Microsoft live in my district, and I can say with confidence that they are undaunted by this struggle, they are focused, and I am confident that their team will continue to bring new products to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, the American consumer has benefited amazingly by the innovation that is taking place in this industry. Computers are more powerful, software is more powerful, and more people have access to the Internet every day.

There is competition in this industry, and if my colleagues do not believe me, look at the stock market where millions are putting their hard-earned dollars investing in Microsoft's competitors, and that is fine. But, Mr. Speaker, consumers are enjoying the benefits of a vigorous electronic industry.

The Federal Government should put away any scheme to dismember the most creative, the most dynamic industry in the history of the world.

#### SQUEEZING A NICKEL OUT OF FIVE DOLLARS

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, if a schoolboy gives his favorite teacher an apple, she will probably take a small bite out of it, something like that, just modest.

Now, if the taxpayer, his parents send the same apple in the form of tax dollars to the Federal Government, this is what they deem as their fair share, and that is the debate we are in today.

What we are asking is that the Department of Education, just like all the other Federal agencies, get \$5 and squeeze a nickel out of it.

Now, I am a father of four. I have two teenagers and two who still love me. We have to sit around the kitchen table every night to come up with ways to save money. Mr. Speaker, if we can buy our gas for \$1.07 a gallon, we go two more blocks so we do not have to pay \$1.10. I do not buy new suits until they are on sale, and my colleagues might be thinking, well, I hope there is a sale coming up soon.

I do not get a steak when I go out to eat; I get chicken, and we do not buy Special K unless we get the 35 cents off coupon.

All we are asking of the Department of Education and all of the Federal bureaucracies in Washington is to find that little old nickel out of the \$5 so that we can save Social Security.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF THE 106TH CONGRESS

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, when I came to Capitol Hill 10 months ago to represent my hometown of Las Vegas, I made a promise to fight for the fastest growing senior population in the country and for all of the working families like mine that have moved to Las Vegas in search of a better life.

There are two pieces of unfinished business that are critical to my district, a patients' bill of rights and the prescription drug coverage for southern Nevada citizens.

Over and over again I hear from my constituents, from working parents worried about health care coverage for their families, from seniors having to choose between buying food and buying medicine. They need help and they do not care about Washington politics. The patients' bill of rights is a bipartisan issue because everybody should be able to determine the best course of medical treatment and consultation with their own doctor. If HMOs make decisions like doctors, they should be held legally accountable like a doctor.

We need to enact a bill that protects the patients' bill of rights, not the HMO's bottom line. We need to pass a bill to ensure prescription drug coverage for seniors. We did a cost survey and found that uninsured seniors in my district pay two, three, or four times the price that insured seniors pay for some of the most common prescription drugs. These drugs keep them alive, but financially it is killing them.

I stand up for all of the seniors in my district.

#### MORE UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF THE 106TH CONGRESS

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago I counted down the hours that we had remaining in this session, and I asked the question of what we could do for our young people in providing them safe schools. And I ask now the question with maybe less than 24 hours in this session, at least as we know it, whether or not this Congress is going to be known as having done good or having harmed the American people.

The question is, are we going to pass what the American people have asked us to, which is a patients' bill of rights, so that we can stop once and for all drive-by emergency rooms, so that we can give women the right to have their OB-GYN as their primary provider, so that we can have second opinions, so that we can reestablish the patient-physician relationship. While all of our loved ones are under the care of a physician, how tragic it is for them to have to call for a procedure and someone at a phone who does not even know who they are says no, you cannot have it.

We need a patients' bill of rights.

I did a study in my district, and how unfortunate it is that my seniors are

having to pay light bills and having to pay rent, but cannot buy their prescriptions, of having to cut their prescriptions in half. What a tragedy. Yes, Mr. Speaker, is it not unfortunate that we do not have real gun safety in America when 80 percent of the American people say we want reasonable gun safety and we want our children to be safe in schools.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 106TH CONGRESS

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I am really stunned to listen to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle talk about the fact that the 106 Congress has not accomplished much of anything. I guess that is sort of their message today. So it is incumbent upon us to point out, once again, the great accomplishments that we have made in this Congress.

At the beginning, Speaker HASTERT stood right here on the opening day and talked about the need to improve public education. We have done that by passing the Education Flexibility Act so that local school districts can make decisions as to how to best educate their children. We passed the Teacher Empowerment Act, which also moves further in that direction.

Tax relief for working families. We did it; we did it. People are taxed more than they ever have been since the Second World War, and the President unfortunately vetoed that measure and the Democrats on the other side of the aisle voted against it. We said that we wanted to save Social Security and Medicare, and we all know that we have locked up the Social Security Trust Fund for the future, going well beyond the 62 percent that the President advocated when he stood here in his State of the Union message.

And rebuilding our Nation's defense capability. We passed the National Missile Defense bill, which is very, very important to our national security, and the Defense appropriations bill. We have accomplished a lot in this 106th Congress, and do not forget it.

#### GOP BUDGET GIMMICKS

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, as the GOP leadership in Congress struggles to complete its appropriations work, now a full 40 days past the end of the fiscal year, I thought it fitting to examine their record of Social Security budget gimmicks this year. There simply are not enough apples in this city to demonstrate adequately what the Republican Party is doing here. They simply take apples from one basket and, before they put it in the other,